

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15076 031625Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

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R 031520Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4354

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: ACCESS TO MFA OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 235414

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST BUT HAS RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT PROBLEM OF USEFUL ACCESS TO MFA OFFICIALS IS NOT EASILY SUSCEPTIBLE TO RECIPROCAL MEASURES. PROBLEM IS NOT SO MUCH PHYSICAL ACCESS AS INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS OF MANY OFFICIALS TO CARRY ON MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE. SOME INDIVIDUALS AND OFFICES WITH AXES TO GRIND ARE EXCEPTIONS. USEFULNESS OF CONTACTS AT MFA IS OF COURSE ENHANCED WHEN EMBASSY IS ARMED WITH SPECIFIC TASKS AND WITH GOOD BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS WE WANT TO DISCUSS.

2. PYRLIN, IN NEAR EAST DIVISION, IS A SPECIAL CASE. HE USUALLY RECEIVES US PROMPTLY WHEN HE HAS SOMETHING TO CONVEY, AND HIS COMMENTS ARE USUALLY OF INTEREST. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER BEING UNAVAILABLE TO US ON ONE PRETEXT OR ANOTHER FOR SIX WEEKS, ON NOV 23 HE RECEIVED EMBOFF APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO INDICATE TO US THAT MOSCOW IS DOWNPLAYING TIES TO THE PLO (HIS LIES ABOUT ARAFAT VISIT WERE OUT OF CHARACTER). WE MIGHT

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15076 031625Z

HAVE ARRANGED TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE IN PYRLIN'S OFFICE

IN THE INTERIM, BUT EXPERIENCE INDICATES IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE.

3. FIRST FAR EASTERN DIVISION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING AT SEVERAL LEVELS FOR OBVIOUS REASON THAT THEY ARE DEEPLY CURIOUS ABOUT U.S. VIEWS ON CHINA. CALLS AT OTHER GEOGRAPHIC OFFICES -- SOUTHEAST ASIAN, THIRD EUROPEAN, FIFTH EUROPEAN AND VARIOUS AFRICAN OFFICES -- HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN USEFUL BUT WERE MORE OFTEN MERE EXERCISES. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED USEFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN TREATY AND LEGAL, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISIONS. WE HAVE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION. THE SITUATION WITH THE PRESS DIVISION IS A SPECIAL ONE; PERHAPS SOMETHING COULD BE DONE IN THE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS HERE TO IMPRESS ON THE SOVIETS THE NEED FOR REASONABLE ACCESS TO PRESS CHIEF SOFINSKY. EVEN IF HIS CURRENT INACCESSIBILITY IS DUE TO GOVERNMENT'S UNWILLINGNESS AND HIS INABILITY TO SATISFY OUR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS, IT COULD BE POINTED OUT THAT A DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE ON AREAS OF DIFFERENCE WOULD BE MORE IN KEEPING WITH OVERALL STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND POSSIBLY CONSTRUCTIVE.

4. LOOKING BEYOND THE MFA, THE EMBASSY HAS EXCELLENT ACCESS TO OFFICIALS IN TRADE, ECONOMICS AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS. IN PAST YEAR, EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH SEVERAL LOCAL AND REPUBLICAN OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS WITH MOSCOW AND ALL-UNION OVERSEAS OFFICIALS. DAO HAS RECURRING PROBLEMS OF NON-RECIPROCAL ACCESS.

5. IN EVENT WE ENCOUNTER SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF STONE-WALLING ON ACCESS IN FUTURE, WE WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT SO THAT APPROPRIATE PRESSURES IN WASHINGTON CAN BE CONSIDERED. MEANWHILE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONTINUE REMINDING THE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT THE RICHNESS OF ITS CONTACTS IS NOT MATCHED IN MOSCOW. AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO FEED US INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE TASKS IN ORDER TO ENRICH OUR OWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15076 031625Z

CONTACTS.
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